AP US History

Chapter 17 Questions

1. During the second Industrial Revolution, what business strategies were used to consolidate (combined) corporations and change the ways businesses were organized and run?

Some ways were…

* “Scientific production” or “Taylorism” which had reduced the huge one task into several smaller tasks which made it easier for businesses to hire people and to replace them.
* Moving assembly line which cut the time of work, making it easier and cost-friendly for businessmen, meaning more profit for them.
* Corporate research and development
* Middle management meant that they had to make the workers do what they do and make sure that everyone is doing what they’re doing; a supervisor.
* Vertical Integration was the taking over of all the different businesses on which a company relied for its primary function, which helped people like Rockefeller gain power and wealth over others.
* The trust agreement, which helped stockholders in individual corporations which transferred their stocks to a small group of trustees in exchange for shares in the trust itself which helped combine companies.

1. Explain the relationship between industrialization and social Darwinism.

Industrialization was a major source of wealth at this time, and so social Darwinism had taken place as well. Since there were wealthy people and there were poor/middle class people, the theory had been used. The wealthy people had used this idea to argue that this was how they got their money and power; it was natural that they were to become millionaires. Various people such as Herbert Spencer had agreed with this idea and argued that society would benefit from the elimination of the unfit and the survival of the powerful and talented. It had also help justify to businessmen’s success and confirm their virtues. But social Darwinism did not have much to do with the realities of the corporate economy, because American businessmen had feared and tried to get rid of competition.

1. Describe the efforts of labor to organize, the tactics of unions, and the successes and failures of organized labor during the 2nd IR.

All of these efforts and tactics were all in vain. The first thing they use is “collective bargaining”, which meant making deals and demands before going to strike. For example, the Knights of Labor had tried to create a national labor organization, but they were loosely organized without much central direction. It was a secret organization, but later opened to the public where they had gained a total of over 700000 members where they had launched a series of strikes, but this effort was unsuccessful as they had now over a few years disappeared. Their tactics were to cause strikes and to restore wage cuts and to make their union recognizable. The AFL (American Federation of Labor) was also another type of a labor organization, it became the most important enduring labor group in the country. Pickett signs was a common strike where they don’t work and make rallies right outside of the industry. Another was where they reported for work and did nothing until their demands were met.

1. What were the 3 most important causes of the rapid industrialization of the late 19th century (the second Industrial Revolution)?

(Causes? Don’t you mean effects?) The three most important causes for the 2nd Industrial Revolution were the introduction of new methods (to produce different things), the birth of corporations, and the immigrations work force. Since there were already new ways to produce different things around Europe, for example, Otto’s attempt at an automobile, one American – Henry Ford would be able to use that and to improve on it, where he became successful. So were the new steel production methods, they helped make steel for new businesses and industries. Corporations were important as well as they helped businessmen to become successful and to help create more industries around the nation. Finally since industries and factories required a large amount of labor, the waves of immigration helped produce cheap labor and since unskilled work was now available, this helped women and children to work as well.